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THE RISING CRISIS OF STREET CHILDREN AND THEIR DELINQUENT BEHAVIORS IN KADUNA NORTH

Sidi, Maryam Nasiru
Department of Sociology, Kaduna State University, Kaduna.
Email: marnasdi@gmail.com and Maryam.sidi@kasu.edu.ng
Phone Number: 080642227887

Jaafar Abdulkadir
Department of sociology, Kaduna State University, Kaduna.
Email: jaafar@kasu.edu.ng
Phone Number: 08062262076

ABSTRACT
Street children are often found to be active participants in most of the social uprisings that are witnessed in some parts of Nigeria particularly Kaduna North. The prevalence of street children in Nigeria, particularly the study areais very alarming that if not addressed may lead to a backward society economically. The study reviewed related literature and social disorganization theory was used as the theoretical framework. The quest to find out how and why the number of street children and their delinquent behavior increases, the way it affect the society and how to curb the menace of street children prompted the conduct of this research work. In the course of this research, qualitative research technique was adopted in an in-depth interview were some residents, officers and street children were interviewed. Therefore, the findings of the research revealed poverty, marital breakdown and poor parental care as the major contributors to the escalating number of street children in the study area. The study recommends that government should provide more employment, parent should provide for the needs of their children. Government should equally formulate some welfare policies such as disability insurance as the possible solution to the escalating number of street children and the delinquent behaviors they participate in.

Keywords: Street, Children, Diliquent, Behaviours, Kaduna North

Introduction
Street children is a term used for children experiencing poverty, homelessness, or both, who are living on the streets of cities, towns and/or villages, (Oluwole 2016). Homeless youth are often called street kids or youths and are engaged in asking for money or food from the people (Alabi 2020). The definition of street children is contested, but many practitioners and policy makers use United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's concept of boys and girls aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" (including unoccupied dwelling and wasteland) has become home and or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised (UNICEF, 2012; WHO, 2018). These are children under the age of eighteen, whose lives or livelihood are primarily understood in terms of their relationship to the streets (Bretheton, 2005).

According to a report from stakeholders for street children, a United Kingdom based stakeholders of related non-governmental organization, UNICEF estimated that 150 million children where are growing up in urban streets around the world, the causes of this phenomenon are varied, but are often related to domestic, economic, or social disruption including (UNICEF, 2023). Other causes but not limited to; poverty, breakdown of houses and families, political unrest, domestic violence, lured away by pimps, internet predators, or

begging syndicates, mental health problems, substance abuse, and sexual orientation or gender identity issue (Gladamas 2018).

Here in Africa, countries like Kenya, Sierra Leone and Nigeria are reported to have the largest number of security challenges caused by street children as a result of their delinquent behaviors. In Sierra Leone, there are about 50,000 children relying upon the streets for survival, a portion of them living full-time on the streets (Yusuf 2020), African states are increasingly confronted with a rising number of street children. In Kenya, there are estimated 250,000 street children and over 60,000 in the capital Nairobi (Yusuf 2020). Rural-urban migration broke up extended families which have previously acted as support network for children in cases of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

In Nigeria, Lagos, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna are facing the problem of insecurity caused by delinquent behaviors of street children especially in time of crises and protest. In Lagos, a lot of business activities are taking place and people from various part of the country are living there. Some are reported to have given birth to children out of wedlock, commercial sex workers gave birth to many children which they abandoned, some of the children don't have parent. Others some don't have homes and they don't know where to leave, as such they become street children in the name of looking for a way of survival, they end up being street children – begging, stealing, and prostituting which brings about serious security challenges (Alabi 2020). It is estimated that there are over 100,000 children living on the streets of Lagos. Gangs of these street children hang around bus stops, markets and main roads, threatening passerby for money/valuables by way of snatching.

In Kaduna state street children pose a lot of delinquent behaviors. Most of the street children leave in Kaduna metropolis, because it is the central part of the state with urban centers, high population, as well as different types of socio-economic activities, where most street children are leaving (Sarki, 2021).

Street children in Kaduna North are of different types, some are homeless children, some are orphans, some are hawkers and some are Almajiri's that is, children forced to leave their homes to put them under a Malam (Islamic Religious Teacher), for them to undertake Islamic teachings (Yusuf 2020). It is obvious from the previous literature that street children is in increase which pose the need to assess the escalation of it in the study area (Auwal 2023).

Research Questions

1. What are the factors responsible for Rising Crises of street children in Kaduna North?
2. What are the delinquent behaviors associated with street children in Kaduna North?

Literature Review

This research reviewed some literature on the concept of Street children and their delinquent behaviors which causes impact on security level is a universal phenomenon mostly affecting the less developed cities in which Kaduna North inclusive. Many researchers had attempted to understand and explain where, why, and how street children increase and the nature of their delinquent behaviors in world.

Street Children

According to the European federation for street children, "they are extremely vulnerable group of children living in most severe situations well beyond the usual notion of poverty; they face a gross violation of their human rights such as violence, sexual exploitation and abuses, chemical addiction and various other human rights violation". UNICEF (2017) defined street children as people below the age of 18 years who live on the street, of street

and in between the street and home. found two forms of street children that exist in Nigeria. The children of street, who work and live on the street and children in the street full or part time but return back to their homes each night.

According to Gunhidzirai (2023), Street children are often characterized by loneliness on the street, shelter less, loss of contact and protection, love and care. They are mostly at risk of certain social dilemmas such as harassment, hunger and trafficking, and they are also threat to social stability as they engage in street vending, begging, garbage carrying as source of income and provide for their needs (Tetteh 2018).

In addition, UNICEF, (2012) refers Street children as minors who live on the streets, without the care and protection of responsible adults. They often come from impoverished families and have run away or been abandoned. There are children of street, who work and live on the street and children in the street full or part time but return back to their homes each night. The bulks of the children are from the lower-class family and are mostly children of slums and ghettos (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008).

Street children are relevant to this research as they are the interested part to the research and their prevalence in the world is very alarming. Living in the street without parent or guidance can lead a child to knowingly or unknowingly fall into bad company and engage in bad behavior/delinquent behavior. They are very vulnerable which make them to partake in any kind of behavior for their survival. Children are said to be the leaders of tomorrow therefore, children without future means society without responsible leaders. The study focuses on the street children and the delinquent behaviors they participate in Kaduna North.

The implication of street children to this research comes with the understanding that when the children are left for the street, without being taking care of, they tend to be capable of engaging in anything for their survival. Without an elder to show them the right things while growing up, they end up not fearing any one and grow up to be a problem in the society. They children are slowly killing themselves, so also the community at large. When an individual grow up facing different kinds of challenges by himself, he often becomes remorseless to almost every other member of the society, whereas becoming a problem to the society by turning out to be bandits, kidnappers and armed robbers among others.

Factors Responsible for Rising Crises of Street Children

Street children are highly susceptible to exploitation, whether it is physical, mental, sexual or economic (Dankyi and Huang, 2022). Hence, While Smith and Rivera (2007) assert that, children raised in family disrupted by divorce or separation have greater chances of exhibiting unwanted behaviors; including delinquent behavior, than children being raised by both parents. Marital discord is a significant social problem for children, sometimes leading to health problems. Some street children found themselves in the street since their parent and grandparent are street parent and have nowhere to leave than the street (Auwal 2023). Therefore, there are numerous factors responsible for the escalating number of street children they include poverty and unemployment, broken homes, victims of domestic violence, run away children, among others.

Traditional Quranic Schools

According to Sule-Kano (2008) initially, Traditional Quranic Schools (TQS) were not established mainly for the sake of begging. The developing national economic crises which result in family economic hardship that “the poor condition of the school and inability of the parent to support the children adequately”, it forcefully made the Malams and “Almajirai” (Students) to migrate to urban centers in search of money. The Almajiri’s hanging around the

streets, houses and market places in search for basic needs and other activities that will support their education. It serves as a means of their living in Kaduna state, particularly Kaduna North (Jaafar, 2015). As such Traditional Quranic School (TQS) which were controlled by Malams referred to as "Almajiri School" contributed seriously to the number of street children.

Poverty and Unemployment

According to UNICEF (2017), Poverty refers to the inability of access to fundamental needs which include food, water, housing, healthcare services and education among others. Poverty and unemployment also contributed to the number of street children as they go hand in hand. Parents who are unable to provide basic life necessities for their respective families have to predispose their children to certain activities on the street for their survival. Cooper and Stewart (2013) argued that the economic disadvantage of households caused by unemployment rates, limit children's from having access to some the benefits available to them including most of the physical public service. Sudeh (2008) argued that children's school drop-out, truancy and absenteeism are perpetuated by the rate of poverty and unemployment. Children of poor neighborhood, where poverty and unemployment are common, hanging around the street in the name of hawking and other commercial activities (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008). Poverty is a primary reason for children leaving from homes to street for survival (UNICEF, 2012). Poverty is also a prime factor of street children; some children leave their houses because of lack of food, education and health care among others. Poor children probably sacrifice education and training, without skills the children remain at the bottom of economic heap (Adedibu and Jelili 2011).

Furthermore, street children are a complex issue with both social and economic implications. Street children often lack access to education, healthcare, and other social services, which negatively impact their long-term economic potential and productivity. While, their presence on the streets can create challenges for urban infrastructure and public safety, At the same time street children may resulted to, scavenging, begging, which can have negative impact on the economy (Auwal, 2023).

Broken Homes

While Smith and Rivera (2007) assert that, children raised in family disrupted by divorce or separation have greater chances of exhibiting unwanted behaviors; including delinquent behavior, than children being raised by both parents. Marital discord is a significant social problem for children, sometimes leading to health problems. Some street children found themselves in the street since their parent and grandparent are street parent and have nowhere to leave than the street (Auwal 2023). This means that children who suffer from marital problems are mostly proved to be with delinquent behaviors and street hanging.

Rural Urban Migration

Nigerian Federal Housing Authority investors' toolkit, indicated and carefully stressed the needs for more housing in all the states of the federation to accommodate the nation's urgent housing needs (Obiadi, Irouke&Ezezue, 2017). Hence, Olutuah and Adesiji (2008) argued that housing problems including inadequate facility and building structures are common to most inner cities of urban areas. These tend to be among the leading factors that predispose certain individual including children to the problem of homelessness. Even when the structures are available, they tend to be unaffordable to lower class people as a result of economic hardship among them. In this case, those who cannot afford house for themselves and their children, in most situations, their children are living in the street "homeless

children" (Tacon 2004). Some children are attracted to the glamour of big cities thinking that life in the city is great but only for them to end up suffering as street children.

The loss of parent, parental conflict, and disruption to family environment can contribute to the incidence of street children. Other factors include irresponsible society where sometimes children and orphans are left in the hands of the society. Instead of the members of the society to take care of these children, they mistreat them, these children then opt to live in the streets (Amato, 2010). Some children run away from their homes, some may have experienced traumatic conditions in their homes by being treated harshly and unfairly by their parents and other family members.

Delinquent Behavior

Delinquent behavior is an act of behaving contrary to the rules, norms, and value that govern the society especially from individual under the age of 18. These kinds of violations are mostly not reported to the police, they involve criminal and non-criminal behavior, (Edwards 2024). The reason for understanding delinquent behavior is to give hand in early intervention, reduction of delinquent behavior and promotion of positive development from youth. Delinquent behavior is mostly the foundation of criminal behavior. Delinquent behaviors include juvenile delinquency, property offences, violent crime such as assault, substance abuse among others (Kennedy, Detullio & Millen 2020). The common most factors that lead to these delinquent behaviors include; family issues which may be as a result of neglect, ineffective parenting, peer pressure, economic factor, mental health problem and community factor.

Delinquent behavior may result to legal trouble, education issues, damaged relationship, health problems and community impact (Akinteye, Ashafa and Wuye 2004). They also argued that the area boys were believed to be the handiest instruments used by anybody seeking to start any civil disturbance; they are mostly used by politicians and are trying to use the first step in ethno-group or religious riots, such riots involve looting, destruction and killing by implication.

More so, delinquent behavior is equally relevant to the study because it identified the delinquent activities street children engage in as a result of their life in the street which is also part of the subject matter to the research. The implication of delinquent behavior by street children can result from educational issue, legal issue damage of property where as escalating to homicide harvesting of body parts among others in their adulthood.

Nature of Delinquent Behavior Associated with Street Children

Street children exhibit certain anti-social delinquent behavioral activities such as stealing, pick pocketing, drug addiction and harassment. Majority of these street children, through contact with thugs are gradually socialized to becoming street hooligans (Yan Daba-Hausa language) or "area boys" in Lagos. In Kaduna, they are referred to as '*Yan-Shara*. Akinteye, Ashafa and Wuye (2004) argued that the area boys were believed to be the handiest instruments used by anybody seeking to start any civil disturbance; they are trying to use the first step in ethnic group or religious riots, such riots involve looting, destruction and killing by implication. Therefore, the street children are used for political, ethnic and religious crises.

Sule-Kano (2008) and Uwaje (2012) argued that children that engaged in truancy, school absenteeism and drop out are mostly associated with various delinquent behaviors. Such problems are common even among the traditional Quranic school students (Almajirai) as they sometimes move from their schools to other distance places without the knowledge of their Malams and parents. Research by Sule-Kano (2008) and Uwaje (2012) shows that

statistically, about 70% percent of African street children are school drop outs and about 30% have never being to school which result to the high rate of illiteracy among them.

Child prostitution and teenage pregnancy is common among female street children. Child prostitution comprises of the exchange of sexual services for remuneration or for other forms of considerations including food, housing, and drug and by other commodities or intangibles such as approval or care (Siegel and Welsh, 2005). Child prostitution correlates with poverty, lower education alternative, joblessness and health problems.

According to Bartollas (2006), many teenage girls living in poverty turn commercial sex as their means of income. According to Siegel and Welsh (2005), girls may be forced into life of sexual promiscuity because their sexual desirability (by men) makes them a valuable commodity for family living on the edge. They are encouraged to sell their bodies because they have little value to trade. Many of these girls find themselves pregnant at a very young age (teenage pregnancy) in the process of commercializing their bodies.

Children prostitution and teenage pregnancy, apart from being delinquent acts, also contribute to menaces of street children. Bartollas (2006) also argued that when these girls become pregnant, the family rejects them. They must take the responsibility of themselves in fact not only them but also including their children and with no one to support them. The children when they grow up become the children of the street that is, homeless street children. Teenage hawkers particularly girls are must often in such practices. Because of certain factors such as, poverty and illiteracy, for example, they are sexually harassed by men. They accepted their efforts sometimes consensually while some other time by threatening them.

The nature of delinquent behaviors by street children in Kaduna North sprang up from different abnormal behaviors such as stealing, drunkenness, burglary, robbery, rape, homicide, idleness, truancy, disobedience, prostitution, kleptomanias, and sexual promiscuity.

Theoretical Framework

Theoretical perspective for this research is the study of social disorganization theory, which emanated from Chicago School of Sociology by Clifford Shaw and Henry D. McKay in 1942. The main assumption of the theory is the ability to explain why crime committed by lower class community is more prominent than neighborhood from communities in better economy areas. According to Menna (2008), the main point of the social disorganization theory focuses on the disproportionate amount of social and economic hardship as well as level of criminality that occur in the inner cities, compared to other areas. The theory put emphasis on the analysis of harsh consequences of urbanization, especially those problems generated by living in the inner city.

The relevance of social disorganization theory to this research is that it helps in explaining how the environment impact on a child's behavior. An individual brought up in an environment with little or no social infrastructure and opportunities is more likely to leave in the street and exhibit delinquent behaviors than one who is not. The constant influence of people and business (men) into the inner cities compared to other areas and that the constant influx of them into a city combined with highly transient environment and a wide spread of poverty, lead to breakdown of families, schools and other social institution that encourage conformity (social disorganization) (Menna 2008).

Most of the street children found in the major streets of Kaduna are from poor neighborhoods, where certain criminal and delinquent behaviors are easily adapted. The

economic segregation against such children makes them imbibe on certain activities that will earn them a living on the street (Umar, Johnson & Cheshire 2018). These activities include begging, hawking, garbage collection and other related activities. Due to the influence of their neighborhood, they exhibit certain anti-social behaviors in the process, which consequently affect the level of security in the community (Akinwale &Aderibto 2011).

Methodology

This study is subject to both primary and secondary sources of data, the primary data was generated through in-depth interview of some street children and resident of Kaduna North such as civil servant and business personnel which will allow the research to delve deeper into the respondents' perspectives, feelings, and points of view. The secondary data is obtained through literature review that is relevant to the study. Secondary data are research materials, or data obtained from extant or literature that already exist in the research area, they are not originally from the researcher but from existing literature such as journals, articles, gazettes, books, internet sources, etc. Data was generated through interviews and literature reviewed that are relevant to the study and analyzed both thematically and narratively.

Results

The prevalence of street children around the world especially in Kaduna North is very disturbing as they street children are almost everywhere you go, these street children include hawkers, beggars, garbage collectors and garbage disposers. Some of these children have a home but are forced out of their homes because of poverty so as to help their siblings and parents for survival. The other category of street children, are those that do not have a place to live and depend solely on the street for survival, these kind of street children do not have emotional support as a result end up being emotionless and heartless which make them to engage criminal activities when they grow up.

The prevalence of street children on Nigeria streets, particularly in Kaduna North can also be explained in relation to the growth of cities in Kaduna, like any urban center in the world, Kaduna is characterized with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds who came to participate in different spheres of the state (Umar, Johnson & Cheshire 2018). Due to certain obstacles that may deny some individuals to participate actively in the affair of the state, those individuals where structurally forced to live in the less-developed part of the city, where the integrative forces (schools, families, religious centers and other related social institution) are weak. People, who live in such neighborhood, suffer most from certain social problem such as: poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and more which predispose them to other deviant activities.

In October 2024 at Kaduna State University, 45 years old Female Respondent from IDI indicated that;

> *Every day you come out of your home you at least come across a child that is asking you for help and begging, or the children that are not living with parents that are virtually living on the street, it is truly an escalated issue and quiet alarming there is no day you dot come across them.*

The various factors responsible for escalating number of street children in Kaduna North, include; poverty, broken homes, excessive punishment at home, poor parental care and bad governance. In an interview with the street children majority of them identify lack of parental care as the reason for them living on the streets, other factors they mention include hunger or food crises, peer pressure and migration from homeland as a result of insurgency among

others. Some of the street children added that lack of use of birth control by their parents makes the parents to give birth to the number of children they cannot take care of which will make the children striving to survive by all means and lead them to the street.

In September 2024, at one of the residents house, Another 33 year old female respondent in IDI stated that;

> *Looking at the issue of street children, majority of them is due to poverty and lack of very good government policies in the sense that government are not overseeing policies that will help improve people's life……. School and health care system, project to last ten years and being destroyed in three years.*

Delinquent behaviors being the act of behaving contrary to the rules, norms, and value that govern the society especially from individual under the age of 18, there are a lot of delinquent behaviors street children find themselves engaging in which range from smaller to bigger crimes. The delinquent behaviors that are engaged by street children include begging, theft, drug use and abuse and vandalism among others. As Akinteye, Ashafa and Wuye (2004) stated, delinquent behaviors may result to legal trouble, education issues, damaged relationship, health problems and community impact.

In October 2024 at Kaduna State University, 45 years old Female Respondent from IDI indicated that;

> *People have really talked about their attitude but narrowly when you come across somebody that is living on the street, somebody that does not have home which means the person did not really have home training so the person is likely to do anything. Many people complain about their pickpocketing, vandalism and so on.*

In September 2024, at one of the residents house, Another 33 year old female respondent in IDI stated that;

> *……mostly, I have a problem with begging because it turns one into liability and once a child started begging form young age, that child will see it as a way of life and to their adult hood up to old age the keep doing it, they turn to street beggars, they engage in drug and petty theft. only God knows what they will turn out to be in their adult age.*

The way in which Street children and their delinquent behaviors affect the society and their residents in Kaduna North differs. Sometimes people view street children as nuisance to the residents and present a shameful image for the country's socio-economic system. There is a significant positive relationship between poverty, crisis, and street children in Kaduna state as well as a significant positive relationship between cultural values and street children (Sarki, Marcus, and Auta. 2021)

A male respondent in KII at Kaduna State Police Command, Headquarters in 2023 Stated that;

> *.....though, they are not the actual originators of the crises but they follow the crowd in the course of the crises. You will see them carrying matches and sticks, in a situation where a shop or house is broken, you mostly find that they are the ones to take things from the broken homes.*

Furthermore, another male respondent of KII form vigilante group in 2023 revealed that revealed that;

> *They are far beyond mere following crowd if they are holding these sticks and meet someone who is weak and unarmed…… if they succeed in stoning him, they can finish him and from there they contribute in killing him.*

There are four categories of how societies deal with street children; The correctional model which is primarily used by Government and Police, the rehabilitation model which is supported by churches and NGOs, the outreach strategy which is supported by street children's teachers, NGOs, and church organizations, The preventive approach which is supported by NGOs, the coalition of street children and lobbying Government.

At Kaduna state police command, Headquarters, 2023 a male police officer respondent of KII reveals that;

> *The activities of NGOs will be of very important in minimizing the issue of street children. Because the establishment of skills acquisition programs will help them to develop skills and it will help them to engage in activities that will help in sustaining their lives, instead of engaging in some delinquent activities.*

Moreso, another KII respondent from NSCDC, Abakwa, Kaduna in 2023 stated that:

> *……by providing adequate school facilities especially boarding schools where those children will be confined in one place, with adequate teachers …… and when a boy graduate, the government should assist him at least to be self employed. With this, street children can be reduced.*

Discussion of Findings

This research reviewed the findings that was carried out on street children and their delinquent behaviors in Kaduna North. It was aimed at knowing the factors that are responsible for escalating number of street children in Kaduna North. There are various factors responsible for escalating number of street children, these factors include; poverty, broken homes, excessive punishment at home, poor parental care and bad governance. This finding conforms to Sudeh (2008) who argued that children's school drop-out, truancy and absenteeism are perpetuated by the rate of poverty and unemployment. In addition, Children of poor neighborhood, where poverty and unemployment are common hang around the street in the name of hawking and other commercial activities (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008). The bulks of street children are children from lower class family and are mostly children of slums and ghettos (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008). It was also indicated in interview that poverty and lack of good government policies that will help improve people's life such as schools and health care system contribute in the escalating number of street children which make them to engage in various delinquent behaviors.

The Research also aims at knowing the forms of delinquent behavior associated with street children in Kaduna North, the delinquent behavior associated with street children include; smoking, stealing, bulling and seizing, and others, (Menna, 2008). Fayok (2009) state that the nature of delinquent behaviors by street children sprang up from different abnormal behaviors such as stealing, drunkenness, burglary, robbery, rape, homicide, idleness, truancy, disobedience, prostitution, kleptomanias, and sexual promiscuity, indicating change in the pattern of their major behaviors.

The Delinquent Behavior associated with street children in Kaduna North and how they affect the society include; smoking, stealing, bulling and seizing, and others, (Menna, 2008). Fayok (2009) state that the nature of delinquent behaviors by street children in Kaduna North sprang up from different abnormal behaviors such as stealing, drunkenness, burglary,

robbery, rape, homicide, idleness, truancy, disobedience, prostitution, kleptomanias, and sexual promiscuity, indicating change in the pattern of their major behaviors.

The research also tries to know the strategic measures that should be taken by various stake-holders to curb the menace of street children, these stake-holders include the parents, the community and the government. The findings indicate stopping children from hawking as the effort made by parent, while the community effort is the provision of skills acquisition centers for the children. The government effort is through provision of favorable school environment for the children and implementing good policies that is workable in the society.

In relation to the theoretical framework of this research, the greater number of the street children are products of lower-class community where there is little or no access to social amenities and are often found in such areas. The behaviors the street children exhibit may have little or no effect on the people living in the area with better economy or higher-class community whereas having more effect in lower-class community. In addition, inadequate healthcare system, poor standard of schools, poverty and low employment opportunity are majorly found in and within people living in poor neighborhood.

Conclusion

In conclusion on the escalating number of street children their delinquent behaviors in Kaduna North, Street children in Kaduna North are of different types, some are homeless children, some are orphans, some are hawkers and some are Almajiri's etc. Study of street children and their delinquent behaviors is of a great importance, because of the way through which their behaviors affect the society. It is obvious that the escalating number of the street children in Nigeria, particularly Kaduna, threaten the lives, properties and even the well being of the people. This is because the street children can most likely engage in drug addiction which make or motivate them into more sophisticated criminal and delinquent practices which some of them do facilitate ethno religious and political crisis in the state.

The study of the escalating number of street children and their delinquent behaviors is of great importance to the street children because it makes them know their status and the level to which their behaviors affect the society. Therefore, it will also enable them to understand the major outcomes of their unwanted attitudes and the effect of those attitudes on their families, neighbors, state and their immediate environment. The findings of the study will be of significance to individuals, families, groups, government and non governmental agencies, especially those organisational agencies involved in related delinquent behaviors all over the world.

Recommendation

In view of the research findings, the following recommendations are proffer to reduce the escalation of street children and their delinquent behaviors in Kaduna North of Kaduna State:

1) Parent should watch over the affair of their children, what they do, where they go, and the kind of friends they mingle with so as to reduce the tendency of bad influence of friends.
2) Parents should consider their ability in sustaining themselves as well as their children before giving birth. This is because lack of basic life necessity will make children to struggle to provide it for themselves at all cost.
3) Government should pay emphasis in providing employment opportunity for parents and skill to train their children so that reliance on street activities will be reduced. In line with this, the government should also review and implement policy regarding

poverty reduction and welfare programs so that level of poverty and the problem of marital breakdown will be reduced as well as street children.

4) Government should also improve the standard of schools, particularly public schools, so that children would spend more time with their studies and reduce the amount of time doing activities on the street.
5) Welfare programs for the street children should be put in place by the government and skill acquisition centers should also be provided for the street children. This will minimize the level of dependency on street for hawking, begging and other activities.
6) Skill acquisition centers should be established either by NGOs or the government so that children will be trained into different occupation which will make them to be self-employed. To this end, the street children will, in a long run train their younger ones and as a result, a productive population will be produced.

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